

Serial No. 09/769,128
Art Unit: 1742

Remarks

Claims 21-27 are currently pending in the above-captioned matter. Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 21 and 22 are allowable.

Claims 23-26 were subject to a restriction requirement and have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. Please cancel claims 23-27 without prejudice. Remarks made herein are based on the claims as amended hereby.

35 USC §102 Rejections

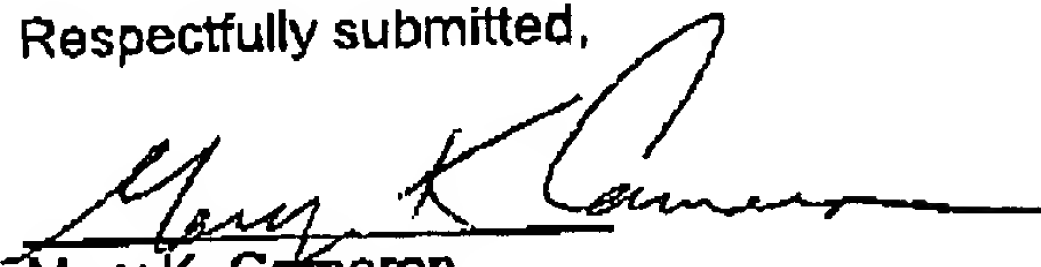
Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by International Application WO 97/45568 A1 (the '568 publication) and by International Application WO99/24638 A1 (the '638 publication).

Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are moot in view of the cancellation of claim 27.

CONCLUSION

Applicant requests reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein. Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this paper, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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